

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DOTE-00

EPA-01 HEW-02 HUD-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 OES-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, NL

SUBJECT: THE NETHERLANDS AND CCMS

REF: HAGUE 1031, HAGUE 1211

SUMMARY: GON WILL EXPLORE WITHIN NATO PRIOR TO
CCMS PLENARY ATTITUDES OF ALLIES TOWARD TRANSFERRING CCMS
FUNCTIONS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ACTION
REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN DER STOEL A STATEMENT OF US POSITION ON CCMS. END
SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT DUTCH DELEGATION TO NATO IS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE AT NEXT MEETING OF NAC
VIEWS OF OTHER ALLIES ON TRANSFERRING CCMS ACTIVITIES FROM NATO
TO OECD, UN OR COUNCIL OF EUROPE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
IN CHARGE OF CCMS MATTERS, W. ELZINGA, TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WANTS MATTER DISCUSSED IN NATO PRIOR
TO APRIL 8-9 CCMS PLENARY.

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2. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, SECOND CHAMBER OF DUTCH

PARLIAMENT TOOK VAN DER STOEL AT HIS WORD WHEN HE DOWNGRADED IMPORTANCE OF CCMS DURING DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY FEBRUARY 26. FOLLOWING DAY CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, LABOR PARTY'S PEITER DANKERT, CIRCULATED RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EFFORT FOR NATO TO DIVEST ITSELF OF CCMS. RESOLUTION OBTAINED SUPPORT OF EVERY PARTY EXCEPT COMMUNISTS AND FARMERS PARTY AND WAS PASSED BY VOICE VOTE MARCH 5. VAN DER STOEL, WHO COULD HARDLY OPPOSE SOMETHING THAT FITTED SO CLOSELY SPIRIT OF HIS OWN DESULTORY REMARKS, WAS THEN CONFRONTED BY PERMANENT STAFF OF HIS MINISTRY WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION. HE TOOK HIS TIME, BEFORE DECIDING LATE IN MARCH THAT GOVERNMENT WAS NOT OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW FROM CCMS BUT RATHER ONLY TO EXAMINE WITH ITS ALLIES WHETHER OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT MORE APPROPRIATE FORUMS. VAN DER STOEL'S INTERPRETATION ALLOWS NETHERLANDS TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE CCMS ACTIVITIES TO WHICH IT IS ALREADY COMMITTED (IN PRACTICE OR JUST IN PRINCIPLE), BUT BARS NETHERLANDS FROM TAKING PART IN NEW PROJECTS BY CCMS.

3. IN LUNCH WITH ANOTHER EMBASSY OFFICER APRIL 2, LABOR SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER VAN DERHEK EXPLAINED THAT RESOLUTION REFLECTED HIS PARTY'S FIRM BELIEF THAT NATO SHOULD NOT EXPAND BEYOND ITS ORIGINAL POLITICAL-MILITARY FUNCTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY WHY OTHER PARTIES CO-SIGNED RESOLUTION, VAN DER HEK STRESSED INFLUENCE OF ONE OF SIGNATORIES, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT KRUISINGA. AS FORMER STATE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION AND WATERWAYS, AND EARLIER AS STATE SECY FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC HEALTH, KRUISINGA HAD OBTAINED A POOR IMPRESSION OF CCMS, ESPECIALLY AS A FORUM FOR NETHERLANDS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ISSUE SUCH AS POLLUTION OF RHINE. HIS OPPOSITION TO CCMS PERSUADED OTHER NON-LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS. VAN DER HEK, LABOR SPOKESMAN ON DEVELOPMENT AID AND ENERGY IN CHAMBER, SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS OECD INVOLVEMENT IN CCMS SUBJECTS.

4. ON OTHER HAND, FROM WHAT ELZINGA SAID, THERE ARE THOSE WITHIN AND WITHOUT DUTCH GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS, WHO THINK NATO MACHINERY WORKS BETTER THAN THAT OF OECE, WHICH THEY SAY SUFFERS FROM OVERLY BUREAUCRATIC SECRETARIAT. TO MEET THEIR CONCERN, VAN DER STOEL IN HIS INTERPRETATION SET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDITION THAT ANY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS OECD WHICH INHERIT CCMS FUNCTIONS PERMIT SAME NATIONAL APPROACH TO PROJECTS AS IN NATO.

5. ELZINGA TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 1, ANTICIPATING NAC MEETING APRIL 2, VAN DER STOEL SUGGESTED THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO LEARN WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CCMS BEFORE DUTCH BROUGHT MATTER UP IN NAC. IDEA WAS REJECTED

FOR LACK OF TIME, AS IT TURNED OUT, NAC DID NOT MEET APRIL 2, AND DUTCH NOW PLAN TO RAISE PROBLEM AT NEXT NAC SESSION. DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON MAY STILL, THEREFORE, MAKE INQUIRIES.

6. ELZINGA SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CARRY OUT TERMS OF SECOND CHAMBER RESOLUTION IN LOW KEY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MATTER WILL BE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

7. COMMENT: VAN DER STOEL'S INCLINATION TO EST REACTION IN WASHINGTON SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD PROVIDE GON AT EARLIEST POSSIBILITY A STATEMENT OF OUR POSITION ON CCMS. DUTCH LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS TAKEN STAND THAT NATO SHOULD RESTRICT ITSELF TO ITS POLITICAL-MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL BE CONSIDERING GENERAL POLICY OF DUTCH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AT APRIL 10 PARTY CONGRESS IN AMSTERDAM: CCMS WILL DOUBTLESS BE TOUCHED ON THERE. MOREOVER, IT IS WORTH NOTING DEGREE OF SUPPORT RESOLUTION ON CCMS RECEIVED FROM OTHER PARTIES. ALTHOUGH VAN DER STOEL'S STATEMENTS DURING FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE WERE PARTLY TO BLAME, HE NOW SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR SOME SUPPORT TO ALLOW HIM TO SOFTEN EFFECT OF THE RESOLUTION AND POSSIBLY COMBAT FURTHER EROSION NEXT YEAR. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE US STATEMENT OF US POSITION ON CCMS THAT WE CAN CONVEY TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL.
TANGUY

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